

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multimedia direct access storage device and a
method for transferring source program signals
representative of a compressed digital multimedia program
to and from the direct access storage device are disclosed.

A multimedia program is transmitted from a multimedia
server as a custom ordered series of discrete program
segments and received by the multimedia direct access
storage device, which buffers the compressed program
segments for subsequent presentation on a local display
monitor. The multimedia direct access storage device is
preferably incorporated as a component of a local set-top
control system for buffering a predetermined number of
compressed program segments received from the multimedia
server, some of which may be non-sequentially ordered and
others of which may be sequentially ordered. A novel
formatting methodology provides for the sequential
presentation of the program segments asynchronously
distributed on one or more data storage disks disposed in
the direct access storage device. A user-definable
presentation control window for performing local VCR-type
presentation control functions for the portion of a
multimedia program buffered in the direct access storage
device is also provided through the novel formatting
methodology. The novel formatting methodology also
provides concurrent presentation and buffering of program
segments received from the multimedia server for on-demand
viewing of a selected multimedia program.